

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**April 21, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	A	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	E	Agriculture
Chris Bordlemay	E	Water Purveyor
Ed Bugliosi	E	USGS <i>ex officio</i>
Liz Cameron	E	T C Environmental Health
Scott Carpenter	A	At-Large
Sarah Dwyer	P	Business/Industry
Bill George	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	P	Watershed Organization
Roxy Johnston	P	At-Large
Joan Jurkowich	P	TC Planning
Dan Karig	P	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	E	Municipal

Name		Representation
Lynn Leopold	E	Municipal
Jim McGarry	E	EMC Liaison
Jon Negley	P	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	P	Environment
Jose Lozano	P	Associate Member
John Mawdsley	A	Associate Member
Todd Miller	P	Associate Member
Steve Penningroth	P	Associate Member
Mary Shelley	P	Associate Member
Tom Vawter	A	Associate Member
Linda Wagenet	P	Associate Member
Jennifer Turner	P	TC Planning

Guests: James Balyszak, Hydrilla Program Manager, Leanne Hill, IAWWTF, George Fowler, WIOIT Engineering, Niamh O'Leary, Wells College, Matt Yarrow, CSI

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at approximately 4:18 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – MOVED by Jonathan Negley, seconded by Roxy Johnston, to approve the minutes from March 17, 2014. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the members present. Final minutes are available on the WRC website:

<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/committees/wrc/wrcagenda-minutes>

Report on the Loading of Phosphorus and Sediment to the South End of Cayuga Lake – Steve Penningroth opened his presentation with data on phosphorous and sediment collected in streams and tributaries from headwaters to mouth. Comparisons of load calculations for Virgil Creek, Fall/Virgil Creek, Six Mile Creek, and the Cayuga Inlet were presented in a side by side analysis spanning from years 2009 through 2013. He went on to note that the majority of phosphorous loading in Cayuga Lake is attributable to the streams. Members asked questions about his methodology and his interpretation of his results.

Proposal for Sediment Removal at Six Mile Creek Letter – Dan Karig presented a comment letter on behalf of the Streams Committee in response to the proposal for sediment removal by the DEC. Frank Proto noted that the comment letter would have been disallowed under the bylaws. However, an exception was

made on behalf of the Streams Committee given the time constraint and review and acknowledgment by three Executive Members.

Committee Reports – Education – reported that they continue to meet and provide support to the Hydrilla Outreach Taskforce. In preparation for the PEEQ meeting that is tentatively scheduled June 18, Sharon Anderson will be making a presentation on the process of the TMDL and 303d list.

Project Update on Hydrilla Eradication and new invasive species list – James Balyszak opened his report with information on the Peer Review conference call conducted April 4th. Coordination with NYS DEC, Western NY Taskforce, LTF and external peer reviewers provided overwhelming support for the continual efforts based upon success. No suggestions for change were made by peer reviewers as the treatments used in the inlet will continue and similarly be used for treatments with Fluridone and contact Herbicide. Certain portions of the Inlet may be removed from the sonar pellet treatments due to the low amounts of Hydrilla. The possibilities of Endothall drip treatments, Fluridone only or Fluridone pellet treatments for Fall Creek were discussed as it will be the first full season for Hydrilla outreach. Updated treatment proposals have been requested from the herbicide producers and applicators. The 1st Finger Lakes Prism Stakeholders meeting will be held next Tuesday at the Finger Lakes Institute in Geneva and will focus on discussions surrounding a strategic plan for the Finger Lakes region. The Finger Lakes Institute has expressed interest in a more localized program for the Boat Launch Steward program. Lisa Cleckner with the Finger Lakes Institute suggested that if there is localized interest to provide coverage than the WRC, the city of Ithaca and Finger Lakes Institute should conduct further discussions. James Balyszak will include more information on the Boat Launch Steward Program to Jennifer Turner which will be made available to all members. Re-allocation of federal funding has extended the contract for the Hydrilla Outreach Program Manager position.

Committee Reports - Executive Committee – The Executive Committee did not meet. The only budget requested was from the Recreation Committee at \$200. Frank noted that there will be no formal budget proposal due to the low amount for requests from Committees. **Grants Committee** – Jon Negley reported that Grants Committee meetings will take place on an as-needed basis. There are grant opportunities available with the State regarding Waste Reduction Recycling and Household Waste Programs. A 50% reimbursement that covers different types of programs will be available to those who qualify. Webinars series will take place May 6, 12, and 20th for Great Lakes Capacity and Funding which is part of the Great lakes Restoration Initiative. The Environmental Protection Fund was increased from \$153 million to \$162 million. The New York State Ag & Markets applications were due last week. Frank asked for a copy of the Environmental Protection Fund list with the allocations to be sent to Jennifer Turner for distribution. **Nominating Committee** – Joan Jurkovich announced that the meeting date for the Nominating Committee will be the 1st Monday at 10:30 am on an as-needed basis. Frank Proto asked that a list of all Committee Meeting dates and locations be compiled for distribution to all members. **Recreation Committee** – Dan Karig announced that the paddling brochure is still in the development process. Possibilities of future outreach include duck hunting on Cayuga Lake and outreach on Bell Station. Frank Proto asked Committee members if there is interest in having a presentation on the status of Stewart Park. Dooley Kiefer mentioned that the Friends of Stewart Park are an unofficial group and therefore cannot seek grant funding. **Streams Committee** – Dan Karig reported that Scott Doyle is putting in a proposal to have Tompkins County identify pipeline crossings and list stakeholders to keep them informed. George Fowler in Collaboration with T.J Miller will be working on this proposal with Scott Doyle. **Aquifer** – Todd Miller reported the Aquifer Committee will meet every 4th Monday after the Streams Committee. The Aquifer Committee is currently working on an arsenic factsheet. **Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership** – On April 3rd Roxy participated in the annual CSI Volunteer Symposium touching on the TMDL process and the current Monitoring/Modeling process on Cayuga Lake. On April 5th, the Cayuga Lake Watershed annual spring conference took place at Wells College. Eileen O'Connor from Cayuga County gave a talk on the language of TMDL's. Jeff Myers from the DEC explained the current monitoring/modeling process going on in Cayuga Lake. Both Myers and O'Connor's talks are being used to develop the Education Committee's presentation to local government agencies. At the Partnership meeting, the Upstate Freshwater Institute gave an in depth discussion on phosphorus that

83 included analytical methods. Roxy noted the next Monitoring meeting will take place on May 20th which is
84 the 3rd Tuesday of the month a week later than the normally scheduled meetings at the Cooperative Extension
85 from 4-5 pm. The next TAC Meeting will be a teleconference on May 19th. Roxy suggested that Steve
86 Penningroth go over the data from his presentation at the next partnership meeting on May 20th. The
87 Monitoring Partnership was initially hoping to update the Monitoring Plan but that there has not been enough
88 time to do so. Instead, members of the Partnership are receiving regular updates on the
89 Monitoring/Modeling work and providing feedback. Through this interaction, the researchers and regulators
90 are providing more in-depth responses and in a small way providing better public input to the process. Roxy
91 asked the members of the WRC if they were happy with the role the Partnership is playing. Steve
92 Penningroth noted the 2 approved methods for analyzing phosphorous and the differences that occur with the
93 readings.

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95 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto presented the Signs of Sustainability award certificates to all members
96 that took part in the process of drafting the comments. Members of the WRC objected to the characterization
97 of the comments. As a group they agreed that the comments were very balanced and science based rather
98 than anti-fracking comments as the certificate stated. Frank Proto will compose a letter to Sustainable
99 Tompkins regarding this matter. Dooley Kiefer suggested that the letter to the DEC regarding Six Mile Creek
100 could be used to support the idea that the recent flooding was due to the sediment build up, and she expressed
101 concern that that idea could be attributed to the WRC. Dan Karig reassured the group that the letter reflected
102 supporting the City’s decision to petition the DEC to dredge Six Mile Creek. Frank Proto asked members if
103 they would like to revise the letter to which there was no response.

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105 **Announcements** – Roxy announced that on May 7, 2014 at 2:30 pm FEMA will hold the Risk Mapping
106 Assessment and Planning Project for the Finger Lakes.

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109 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:07 PM.

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113 Respectfully submitted,
114 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
115 Tompkins County Planning Department

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117 Adopted by the Council on May 19, 2014
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